

the Act is in operation, of all intoxicating liquors.

2nd. The penalties for the violation of the Act are greater than that of any previous Act, and are ample for the purpose—\$50 for the first offence, \$100 for the second offence, and imprisonment for each subsequent offence.

3rd. The trial, summarily, if before a police magistrate or mayor there is no appeal from his decision.

4th. The defendant may be examined.

5th. The husband is compelled to give evidence against the wife and the wife against the husband.

6th. The liquors, and the casks, and the paraphernalia can be forfeited, and in many cases destroyed.

7th. Search can be made for liquors sold contrary to law, and if found can be forfeited or destroyed.

8th. An action may be brought by any person.

9th. Certain portions of the fines are to be set as it is to form a fund to aid in prosecutions.

10th. It is not necessary to prove the precise description of the liquor, the actual passing of money, or the consumption of the liquor, a transaction in the nature of barter and sale is sufficient; and where apparatus is found with liquors it is *prima facie* evidence of guilt, and the onus of proof rests upon the defendant in many important cases under the Act.

Miscellaneous.

Alcohol—Its Effects upon Man and Beast.

☞ DRUNKEN man is very rarely seen on the streets of Paris; still it is alleged that drinking to excess is on the increase both in the cities of France and of the Continent generally. M. Yvernes, a gentleman in the office of the Minister of Justice here, has prepared a document in reply to certain questions proposed at a Congress held at Brussels in August last, in which he admits that drunkenness is on the increase in France, and points out certain consequences arising from the

fact. He shows that drunken men have little or no respect for authority—that out of one hundred individuals tried for acts of rebellion from 1874 to 1878, thirty-five were in a state of intoxication when they committed these acts; that twenty-eight per cent. of those committed for acts of violence towards officers of the peace, and twenty per cent. of those taken up for seditious cries, were under the influence of drink when their crimes were committed. Then follows a list of other crimes, such as breaking into inclosures to destroy plants or trees, fourteen per cent.: outrages against religion or its ministers, thirteen per cent.: outrages against public morals eleven per cent. Statistics on the Continent are but of recent date, and are still very imperfect, so that but comparatively little reliance can be placed upon them, especially as regards the higher class of crimes. Of 622 murders committed during quarrels in public houses, sixty-five, or rather more than ten per cent. are said to have resulted from drink. For the period of forty years comprising between 1837 and 1878 M. Yvernes makes the following statement relative to suicides and accidental deaths arising out of intoxicants:—In 1840 the proportion of suicides was five per cent.; in 1855, six per cent.; in 1860, eight per cent.; in 1870, thirteen per cent.; in 1878 fourteen per cent. In the case of accidental deaths in Paris, the proportion is said to be three per cent.

In connection with this subject M. Desjardin-Beaumetz, at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences, on the 28th of December, gave an account of some experiments he has been making upon a series of twenty pigs, for the purpose of finding the effect upon these animals of the habitual use of certain quantities of alcohol. He administered to them generally two grammes of alcohol for each kilogramme of their weight—that is, from 200 to 400 grammes, which would represent half a litre. The swine which received ab-

solute became very wicked, and when alcoholized fell into a state of brutishness more and more profound, and finally they slept without intermission. The injuries inflicted upon their organs were the alteration and thickening of the mucous coating of the stomach, the fatty degeneration of the kidneys, and peptization. In proportion as the alcoholization increased fat developed, appetite diminished, and at last ceased altogether, so that it became necessary to put the swine upon milk diet so as to render them fit to undergo the experiments. During the intense cold of last winter he had to suspend the administration of alcohol to prevent the pigs from dying of cold, for they were quite incapable of protecting themselves against the loss of caloric. From these experiments the conclusion is that there is an evident parallelism between the morbid manifestations of alcohol upon swine and those upon men.

Joseph Cook on Temperance.

☞ A recent meeting of the Woman's C. T. Union, at Boston, Rev. Joseph Cook spoke the following sentiments:—

I am a prohibitionist, and am not ashamed to own it. The woman's movement needs not only moral suasion, but legal suasion, and I propose to make myself unpopular by touching on a subject which is usually avoided. I take ground in favour of women's demand to be allowed to vote on the local option question. I do not believe in allowing the large cities to force intemperance on the rural districts. Women can certainly have a clear understanding of this subject, and I do not believe any household difficulties would be aggravated if women were allowed to express an opinion on the cause of most of this difficulty. Of course such a movement would be opposed as an entering wedge in favour of woman's rights, and the liquor interests would oppose it to a man. The women, if allowed to vote on this one issue, would go together almost to a unit.